

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 SP-02

SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 CEQ-01 CG-00

DLOS-09 DOTE-00 EPA-04 FMC-02 IO-14 JUSE-00

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TAGS: EMIN PLOS CA US

SUBJECT: US STATEMENT ON SEABED MINING: PRESS COMMENT

1. AUG 30 HALIFAX CHRONICLE-HERALD HAS EDITORIAL PAGE BY-LINED ARTICLE BY PETER MEERBURG, CANADIAN AFFAIRS EDITOR, WHICH CRITICIZES CONTENTION OF AMB RICHARDSON THAT INDIVIDUAL STATES AND THEIR NATIONALS HAVE THE LEGAL RIGHT TO EXPLOIT DEEP SEA MINERAL RESOURCES UNDER THE PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF THE HIGH SEAS. MEERBURG MENTIONS DIFFICULT AND PROLONGED LOS NEGOTIATIONS AND CONCLUDES THAT RECENT PROGRESS HAD LED TO A DEGREE OF HOPE THAT AN INTERNATIONAL OCEAN CODE WAS WITHIN SIGHT. HE GOES ON TO SAY:

NOW, HOWEVER, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE WHOLE EXERCISE IS IN DANGER OF GOING DOWN THE DRAIN, BECAUSE OF THE INTENSE LOBBYING OF THE U.S. CONGRESS BY MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATIONS WITH MINERAL INTERESTS, AND THEIR STAUNCH ALLEGIANCE

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TO "FREEDOM OF THE HIGH SEAS", SMACKING OF 19TH CENTURY COLONIALISM.

2. ARTICLE ALSO QUOTES STATEMENT MADE BY DOD ASST SECY DAVID MCGIFFERT LAST YEAR TO A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE TO THE EFFECT THAT, FROM DOD S POINT OF VIEW, NO IMMEDIATE NEED IS SEEN FOR DEEP SEABED MINERALS. MEERBURG BELIEVES

THAT THIS STATEMENT HARDLY JIBES WITH AMB RICHARDSON S
CLAIM THAT US CAN NO LONGER DEFER DEEP SEA MINING,

...IN THE FACE OF THE WORLD S LONG-
RANGE NEED FOR MINERALS, AND THE MORE
IMMEDIATE NEED TO PROCEED WITH RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT THAT WILL, IN TURN,
LEAD TO THE BEGINNING OF COMMERCIAL
MINING.

3. NOT OVERLOOKED IN ARTICLE IS FACT THAT ONE OF THE
KEY PRIZES IN UNDERSEA MINING WILL BE NICKEL, AND THAT
US ACCESS TO THIS UNDERSEA TROVE CAN BE EXPECTED TO
IMPACT ADVERSELY ON CANADA S LAND-BASED NICKEL INDUSTRY.
MOORE

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